

# GUNNISON CIVIC LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

## COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of the library staff is to provide patrons with materials that will encourage lifelong learning through reading, analyzing, watching, listening, and using available technological equipment.

## PHILOSOPHY

Collection development policy at Gunnison Civic Library is based on the following:

1. Books are our greatest instruments of freedom and knowledge. They record mankind's history, knowledge, and ideas. The freedom to read and study is essential to our democracy.
2. The presence of a book, magazine, or any other material in the library does not indicate an endorsement of its contents by the library staff or board.
3. Labeling is an attempt to prejudice the reader. Gunnison Civic Library uphold the theory that censorship is a purely individual matter and that parents have the responsibility to control what their children read, see, and use on the computers. Cyber sitter has been installed on the computers in the library only if a parent is present and with their permission will it be turned off for anyone under the age of 18.

## OBJECTIVE

The Gunnison Civic Library Staff will select, organize, preserve, and make freely and easily available to the people of the community printed and other materials within the limitations of space and budget.

## PRINCIPLES OF SELECTION

The Gunnison Civic Library Staff obtains, organizes and makes available print and non-print materials which record the thought, expression, and opinion of mankind.

In making selections, the librarian uses principles rather than personal opinions, reason rather than prejudice, and judgment rather than censorship.

The basic test for selection of any item is whether it is of proven or potential interest to the people served. Other criteria include the quality of the material; the attention of critics, reviewers and the public; the amount of similar materials already in the collection, the cost and physical makeup of the material; the available space to house the material; and the extent to which the material may be elsewhere in the community.

Materials will be selected to satisfy the prevalent tastes, needs and reading abilities in the community and to provide diversity in recognition of changing and minority interests.

No materials shall be excluded from the library collection because of race, nationality, or the political or social views of the author.

Library materials may be sequestered for the purpose of protection from damage or theft.

The library will accept gifts provided that they meet the general criteria for selection of materials, and, if warranted, may be sold at book sales during the year.

The library staff will not buy pornography or materials that trade in sensationalism.

The library staff recognizes and accepts its responsibility to provide books and materials for children and young people to broaden their educational background, to open to them the experience of reading as a prerequisite tool for living, to enrich the quality of thought and expression, and to provide recreation. The junior collection, therefore, will include as wide a selection as possible.

It is not the purpose of the collection to take the place of elementary, middle school, high school, or college libraries.

The Gunnison Civic Library Board of Trustees recognize that discarding of no longer useful materials from the collection is as important a part maintenance of the library as the initial selection. The librarian and his/her staff are given this responsibility.

Patrons who feel that material is objectionable may request in writing that the particular material be reconsidered for inclusion in the library collection. The requests will be reviewed by the Gunnison Civic Library Board and the library staff.

#### COLLECTION MAINTENANCE

As materials become worn, dated, damaged or lost, replacement will be determined by the appropriate staff members, who will determine whether or not:

- A. The item is still available and can be replaced;
- B. Another item or format might better serve the same purpose;
- C. There remains sufficient need to replace that item;
- D. Updated, newer or revised materials will better replace a given item;

E. The item has historical value;

F. Another networking agency could better provide the information.

These policies will be reviewed by the Gunnison Civic Library board in January 2007.